

CHEADLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1970

CHEADLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1970

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1. INTRODUCTION

To the Chairman and Members of the Cheadle Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1970.

My introductory comments must of necessity be brief. You will, I trust, forgive any shortcomings, as I find myself in the slightly difficult position of preparing and submitting a Report on matters in which I was not involved and writing without that intimate knowledge of the District gathered over the years by Dr. Tomlin.

Inevitably most of the work of compilation has fallen to the lot of your Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff. To them and to your Surveyor who has so willingly provided information and comments, I express my gratitude.

At the end of September, your Medical Officer of Health retired. I am sure the Council would wish me to record in this, the last Annual Report to cover Dr. Tomlin's many years of service to the community, appreciation for good work well done and their wishes for a pleasant and happy retirement. As a colleague to whom Dr. Tomlin freely gave the hand of friendship when I came to Staffordshire, I must express my personal thanks to him for all the help I received over the years.

In the body of the Report I have included appropriate comments on items of interest, and I have added an additional Table to give more information on the causes and trend of infant mortality.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN TOLLAND

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

Chairman of the Rural District Council
Mrs. M. K. HARRIS

Vice-Chairman of the Rural District Council
Mr. P. CLOWES

Clerk of the Council
Mr. H. W. HENSON, Barrister at Law

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1970
Chairman : Mr. J. H. Simcock

Members : Mrs. G. Adams (elected 22.5.70 resigned 31.7.70); Mrs. V. M. Beech (elected September, 1970); Mrs. E. M. Brunt (elected 22.5.70); Mrs. M. V. Davies (elected 22.5.70); Mrs. H. M. Gardner; Mrs. M. K. Harris; Mrs. F. Hilditch; Mrs. D. Horton (until 22.5.70); Miss A. ~~K.~~ S. Makeig-Jones; Mrs. S. A. Ratcliffe; Mrs. J. C. Slinn (until 22.5.70); Mrs. O. L. Somerville (until 22.5.70); Messrs. J. J. Ainsworth; S. Alexander (until 22.5.70); S. R. Arrowsmith (until 22.5.70); R. Barnes (until 22.5.70); ~~M.~~ T. A. Berresford (elected 22.5.70); T. Blakeman (elected 22.5.70); A. Bogges; A. Bradley; J. E. Brassington; W. Brown; F. Brunt; R. L. Carr; P. Clowes; R. Clowes (elected 22.5.70); J. C. Cope; C. H. Damsell (until 22.5.70); F. W. Davies (elected 25.9.70); T. S. Dykes (until 16.1.70); G. S. Eyre (until 22.5.70); W. Fletcher; J. R. Goodwin; S. E. Goodwin, M.B.E., J.P.; N. Heathcote (until 22.5.70); T. P. Horan, J.P.; C. Howarth; P. J. Howell (elected 22.5.70 resigned 5.6.70); J. Johnson; R. Johnson; T. Johnson; H. J. Jones, J.P.; J. A. Keates; D. Lovatt (elected 22.5.70); J. W. Lowe; A. K. Malkin; A. Mountford; D. B. Pearce (elected 22.5.70); E. C. Perry (elected 22.5.70); G. W. Plant; W. Podmore, J.P.; J. Price; H. L. Richardson; J. A. Rushton; J. Shirley; J. H. Simcock; J. T. Smith; G. Snow; F. G. Taylor; T. H. Willis, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

E. H. Tomlin, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, (retired September, 1970).
S. M. Durkin, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Acting Medical Officer of Health, (commenced October, 1970).
R. Comley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.
D. N. Dunlop, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector.
J. N. Gould, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector.
T. W. Wood, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector.
B. E. Alcock, Clerk.
J. E. Edge, Clerk.
H. E. Mosley, Rodent Operative (retired 31.8.70).

STAFF — ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

J. W. Burton, M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., Engineer and Surveyor.
P. Thorp, C.Eng., M.I. Mun. E., Deputy Engineer and Surveyor.
H. Pointon, Senior Architectural and Town Planning Assistant.
H. F. Parrington, A.I.M.S., Town Planning Assistant.
G. D. Birks, Architectural Assistant.
J. H. Ingham, Architectural Assistant.
G. Gibson, Building Inspector.
E. Challinor, A.M.I.W.P.C., M.R.S.H., Senior Engineering Assistant.
R. A. Cope, Engineering Assistant.
R. Whieldon, Junior Engineering Assistant.
D. J. Burton, Junior Engineering Assistant.
J. W. Shaw, Clerk.
V. Buttress, Clerk.
D. Hammond, Clerk.
C. E. Goodwin, Typist.
S. Hancock, Typist (commenced 2.2.70).
M. Walklate, Shorthand Typist (resigned 18.9.70).
L. Clowes, Shorthand Typist (commenced 14.9.70).

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	59,843
Register General's Mid-Year estimate of population	40,730
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book	12,988
Rateable value	£1,273,331
Sum representing a penny rate	£5,147.96

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT

There have been no changes in the past year worthy of comment.

No action was taken under Section 67 of the National Assistance Act, 1968.

4. HEALTH STATISTICS

These statistics are called for by the Ministry of Health.

Table I comprises statistics supplied by the Registrar General with various birth and death rates based thereon.

Table II lists deaths from certain specified causes.

Table III shown later in this report lists the numbers, sex and age incidence of notifiable infectious disease.

TABLE 1 (1970)

POPULATION OF RURAL DISTRICT (Mid-Year
estimate)

40,730

LIVE BIRTHS

Number — 387 males, 325 females .....	.....	.....	.....	712
*Rate per 1,000 population .....	.....	.....	.....	17.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .....	.....	.....	.....	4.0

STILLBIRTHS

Number .....	.....	.....	.....	14
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths .....	.....	.....	.....	19.0

TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

726

INFANT DEATHS (under 1 year)

9

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .....	.....	.....	13.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	.....	.....	13.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	.....	.....	—

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)

7.0

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)

7.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

(Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000
total live and stillborns)

26.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths

Nil

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths

Nil

DEATH AT ALL AGES — 256 males and 203 females

459

*Death rate per 1,000 of population

11.3

(*Registrar General's Comparability Factor used in estimation of this
rate Births 1.00, Deaths 0.93).

TABLE II
DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC DISEASES

		Male	Female
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.....	2	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	.....	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	.....	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	.....	8	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	.....	7	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	.....	13	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	.....	—	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	.....	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	.....	3	—
Leukaemia	.....	—	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	.....	13	10
Benign and unspecified Neoplasms	.....	1	1
Diabetes mellitus	.....	2	3
Mental disorders	.....	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	.....	—	4
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	.....	4	3
Hypertensive disease	.....	3	2
Ishaemic heart disease	.....	55	39
Other forms of heart disease	.....	22	27
Cerebrovascular disease	.....	36	35
Other diseases of circulatory system	.....	7	17
Influenza	.....	13	3
Pneumonia	.....	19	11
Bronchitis and emphysema	.....	17	4
Asthma	.....	1	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	4	3
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	.....	1	—
Nephritis or nephrosis	.....	—	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	.....	2	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal system	.....	—	2
Congenital anomalies	.....	3	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	.....	2	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality	.....	1	—
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	.....	4	1
Motor vehicle accidents	.....	4	—
All other accidents	.....	5	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	.....	2	—

TABLE II (B)
INFANT MORTALITY — DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER
ONE YEAR

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
M	3 months	Hydrocephalus. Congenital spina bifida and meningocule.
F	7 months	Pneumonia. Mongolism. Congenital heart disease.
M	2 days	Congenital heart disease - multiple defects.
M	21 weeks	Bilateral pulmonary haemorrhage.
		Congenital kidney disease.
M	14 minutes	Atalectasis. Immaturity.
M	2 months	Bilateral lobar pneumonia.
F	2 months	Bronchopneumonia.
M	0 weeks	Cerebral birth injury.

Comments of Health Statistics (Table I and II)

Live Birth Rate

Live births fell by 22 compared with 1969 and the birth rate fell also, but at 17.5 is still well above the national figure of 16.0 per 1,000.

Illegitimacy Rate

The rate, as a percentage of total live births, doubled during 1970, but is still only half of the national rate. As the illegitimacy rate still tends to edge upwards, this tendency will also, in the long term, be seen in this District.

Infant Mortality Rate

Infant deaths decreased by 3 to a figure of 9. This fall reduced even further the infant death rate to 13.0 per 1,000, compared with 18.0 per 1,000 total live births in England and Wales, which latter remains the lowest national infant death rate so far recorded.

I have included a table giving briefly the causes of the infant deaths. Of these 9, the possibility of avoiding death existed in 3 only, the others being inevitable in the present state of medical knowledge. It is worth noting that intensive research continues into the causes and possible prevention or treatment of conditions causing such early death.

Death Rate, All Ages

Although the number of deaths actually fell by 28 compared with 1969, the alteration of the Comparability Factor from 0.87 to 0.93, has resulted in a rise of the local adjusted death rate from 10.5 to 11.3 per 1,000. This adjusted rate remains, however, marginally below the national rate of 11.7.

STATISTICAL TABLE III (1970)

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles (excluding Rubella)		Dysentery	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number originally notified (all ages)	20	8	11	21	184	177	1	1
Final nos. after correction under 1	—	—	1	2	5	6	—	—
1	1	—	19	22	—
2	1	3	6	20	31
3	—	—	—	22	28
4	1	—	—	25	18
5 - 9	14	3	6	84	65
10 - 14	1	1	1	—	—
15 - 24	—	1	—	2	3
25 and over	1	—	1	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	20	8	11	21	184	177
Food Poisoning								
Numbers originally notified (all ages)	2	3
Final numbers after correction Under 5	1	1
5 - 14	—	—
15 - 44	2	2
45 - 64	—	1
65 and over	—	—
Age unknown	—	—
Total (all ages)	3	4
Infective Jaundice Tuberculosis								
	Jaundice		Pulmonary		Others			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number originally notified (all ages)	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Final numbers after correction	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 - 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 9 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 - 14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 19 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 - 24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 - 74 years	—	—	—	—	1	1
75 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	—	1	1	1	—	—

5. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DISEASE

As will be seen from Table III, there was a considerable increase in notifications of infectious disease during 1970.

Chiefly, this was brought about by the local manifestation of the national epidemic of measles. I have no doubt but that many more cases of this easily preventable disease occurred than were notified. It is not easy to understand why parents who are so very willing to accept prevention of other diseases do not readily accept the simple injection necessary to save their children from what can be an extremely serious infection.

The other notifications received in significant numbers were relating to whooping cough, which fortunately is now in fairly large degree prevented or controlled by immunisation and to scarlet fever which is now normally a mild infection carrying little of the risk of yesteryear.

Several cases of food poisoning occurred; the source of the infection was traced and it was shown that the infection originated outside the District.

Other infections reported from schools were :—

307	Mumps		49	Chicken pox
19	German Measles		1	Glandular Fever
2	Conjunctivitis		1	Impetigo
9	Scabies		1	Ringworm
4	Scarletina			

From the Leek Area Health Office, I have obtained the following figures relating to vaccination and immunisation in the Rural District in 1970.

				Primary	Reinforcing
Smallpox Vaccination	.....	.....	.....	276	20
Triple Immunisation	.....	.....	.....	571	210
Diphtheria/Tetanus Imm.	.....	.....	.....	53	303
Diphtheria only Imm.	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Tetanus only Imm.	.....	.....	.....	57	58
Poliomyelitus Vacc.	.....	.....	.....	553	562
Measles Vaccination	.....	.....	.....	473	—

6. WATER SUPPLIES

I am indebted to the Engineer, Manager and Clerk of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board for the following report on the Board's services to the Rural District.

During 1970 bacteriological examinations on 208 samples were made, of which 53 were of untreated waters at the sources and 155 of chlorinated water going into supply. These examinations indicated that 99.3% of chlorinated water samples were free from E. Coli 1. Two E. Coli 1 per 100 ml. of sample were found in Kingsley Reservoir in June. The reservoir was immediately emptied, cleaned and heavily chlorinated. All further samples have been of high bacteriological standard. 56 chemical samples were analysed and all samples were shown as being of high organic quality. No more than 0.02 mg/l of lead has been found in any of the samples taken in supply.

7. DISPOSAL OF WASTES

Specimens of sewage effluent have continued to be taken at all sewage disposal works in the area. In the main these have proved satisfactory and where an unsatisfactory effluent has been found the necessary action has been taken to improve the discharge. The disposal of refuse has continued to be a source of concern. Complaint has been received concerning one of the Council's tips which is nearing the end of its use. Difficulty is being experienced in obtaining a tipping site but this is an essential and it is hoped that the problem will be resolved as soon as possible. Further information on this matter will be given in the section of this report supplied by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

8. HOUSING

Comments on various aspects of housing are made in the reports of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

I would again bring up to date the table which shows the trend of housing activities in the District.

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
1. Population of District ...	40,730	40,150	39,020	38,560	37,200	37,670
2. No. of inhabited houses ...	12,988	12,814	11,913	11,498	10,914	10,459
3. Total built during year ...	281	291	602	486	607	495
4. Total built by Council ...	34	49	95	13	30	48
5. Number built by private enterprise	247	242	507	473	577	447
6. Number of improvement grants made ...	109	82	94	76	60	99
7. Number of houses repaired following action by Health Department under Public Health Acts	44	39	27	40	94	116
8. Number of grants for closet conversion	42	26	14	16	13	41
9. Number of unfit properties dealt with by Demolition Orders, Closing Orders or Undertakings ...	22	53	56	14	48	21
10. Guarantees of Building Societies ...	3	2	8	30	56	70

9. REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work carried out by my Department during the year 1970.

On the 23rd September, 1970, Dr. Tomlin retired from the service of the Council, and I should like to take this opportunity of saying that I have worked with Dr. Tomlin for twenty-one years and during this period I have found him a true and understanding friend as well as an officer under whose control I have on many subjects worked during this period. I like to feel that we have worked as a partnership in the Public Health field and I cannot but regret his retirement although if the Doctor thinks that this is the proper thing for him to do, he is probably correct. I do not think that any official on the Council knew the Doctor as well as I knew him and I don't think the Council truly appreciated his qualities, the friendliness of his nature and his remarkable sense of humour and I am extremely doubtful if the Council made full use of the Doctor's undoubted ability. I can truly say that I had a personal sense of loss when Dr. Tomlin left the service of the Council but as he is not living too far away from Cheadle, I hope to be able to see him during his retirement, providing he is not too busy fishing.

Upon Dr. Tomlin's retirement, Dr. S. M. Durkin was appointed as a "stand-in" Medical Officer of Health until a permanent appointment could be made, and I can say that a happy relationship was immediately attained between Dr. Durkin and myself.

I come now to the retirement of the Council's Rodent Operator, Mr. H. E. Mosley, who has worked for the Council's for nineteen years and has given the Council loyal service. If I am quite honest, my interest in the control of rat and mice population is very small indeed but as it is a responsibility of the Department it is a duty that has had to be carried out to the best of our abilities and in this I relied almost entirely upon the knowledge and application of Mr. Mosley. Mr. Mosley was a forthright and what I call genuine character and some of the arguments created by him in the main office of the Health Department had to be heard to be believed, and we shall miss him greatly.

This year I am attempting to assist the Medical Officer of Health to produce this report as early as possible when it might have a little topical interest and so that too much time has not passed by before the Report is produced to the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

Repair of Houses

44 houses have been repaired; 38 as a result of informal action and 6 as a result of formal action.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 — Section 47

42 houses have had privies replaced by waterclosets.

The total grant paid in respect of these replacements was £1,408.34 and average of £33.53 per property.

HOUSING ACT 1957 — 1961

The number of Demolition Orders and Closing Orders made this year shows a marked reduction on last year and whilst we are bringing about improvement of houses, the highest figures this year, I believe that there ought to be a re-assessment of our numbers of unfit houses which cannot economically be brought up to a satisfactory standard of fitness. I do not consider that we ought ever to become complacent with housing conditions in the area, although when I visit other areas in the country many rural areas appear to have houses needing clearance far quicker than do those in our own district. The attitude towards clearance of unfit houses varies from Councillor to Councillor, indeed this attitude varies outside the Council, many tenants are quite happy with low rents and poor houses, many aged persons are satisfied with poor conditions because of low rents and the fear of running into debt in modern housing, a fear which many younger people do not have. These different approaches, different attitudes, different priorities are seen, particularly in my position in connection with re-housing. The younger family never believe, or perhaps do not want to believe that there are those in the community living in worse conditions than they are. The older applicants often remark to me "I know there are many worse than I am so do what you can for me I shall be ever so grateful". Life's conditioning for young and old has been so very different.

An examination of the average grant aid this year as compared with the previous years indicates how we are encouraging and obtaining more comprehensive improvement schemes with the aid of the higher grants obtainable. The discretionary grant increase is very marked from £320 last year to £680 this year, although perhaps because of our aim for higher standards of improvement the numbers of discretionary grants have reduced slightly from 30 to 27. Standard grants have increased in numbers from 52 to 82 and the amount of grant has probably kept pace with increasing costs. It should not be concluded from these figures that there is any restriction on discretionary grants. My staff give applicants every advice and indeed encouragement to apply for

discretionary grant but the applicant must decide what he can afford and it is far better to obtain a house with the five standard amenities than to destroy people's desire for improvement by insisting on too high standard.

The Council have commenced a scheme of improvement of Council houses and have employed an assistant in the Engineer and Surveyor's Department for this purpose. I regret that my Department was not entrusted with this work as the schemes of private and Council improvement could have benefitted from the experience I already had in the Department and thus form a feed back of experience of Council house improvement to the private sector. The two are inter-related and these boxes of responsibility based on tradition are not good. This is in no sense a criticism of another department of the Council but attitudes to improvement of living conditions is a social as well as technical exercise. Dealing as my Department does with housing on a wide sphere we derive reward and for the want of another word, pleasure, in seeing the living conditions of all sections of the community, improved.

HOUSING ACT 1969

109 applications were received; of these 27 were for Discretionary Grant and 82 for Standard grants.

The amount of grant undertaken to be paid in respect of Discretionary Grant was £18,388.50, an average of £681.05. This compares with £320.90 last year.

As is known, the grant for Standard Grants is based on a maximum restricted to half the proved expenditure subject to a maximum controlled by the amenities provided.

The total agreed to be paid was £20,458.50 in respect of 82 grants, an average of £249.49.

Of the 82 standard grants approved, 45 were for the upper limit of grant as defined in the Housing Act 1964, Section 46 (3). Of the 45, 27 had buildings provided, 12 had septic tanks provided, and 6 had both buildings and septic tanks provided.

In all there were provided 69 baths, 73 wash hand basins, 68 hot water supplies, 78 waterclosets and 32 sinks.

HOUSING ACT 1957 — 1961

Demolition Orders have been made in respect of 14 houses and Closing Orders in respect of 8.

The properties affected are :—

House, Greenfield Farm, Armshead, Werrington.
Whiston Bridge House, Froghall.
Terraced Cottage, Rectory Road, Hollington.
Terraced Stone Cottage, Rectory Road, Hollington.
5 Prince George Street, Cheadle.
49 Lid Lane, Cheadle.
50 Lid Lane, Cheadle.
22 Draycott Road, Tean.
24 Draycott Road, Tean.
Sycamore Farm, Winnothdale.
Rookery Farm, Cresswell.
Ivy House Farm, Whiston.
Ivy House Cottage, Whiston.
Vacant Cottage, Common End, Hollington.

Closing Orders :—

Cottage, Ramsor Common, Farley (occupied by J. H. Johnson).
(Closing Order substituted for Demolition Order, 22.5.70).
Cottage, Ramsor Common, Farley (occupied by Mrs. M. Woodcock).
(Closing Order substituted for Demolition Order, 22.5.70)
58 Dilhorne Road, Cheadle (Closing Order substituted for Demolition Order 28.8.70).
The Lodge, Dilhorne.
Mill Cottage, Station Road, Alton.
School House, Forsbrook.
26 The Terrace, Cheadle.
2 Steps Cottages, Broomyshaw, Winkhill.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

The legislation concerning Qualification Certificates is contained in the Housing Act 1969 and can be considered in two parts.

1. Houses to be brought up to a required standard with the aid of grant.

2. Houses already provided with the Standard amenities and in good repair having regard to their age, character and locality (disregarding internal decoration).

In connection with the issue of a Qualification Certificate in respect of houses to be improved with the aid of grant I found that the complex reporting to Committee and Council for approval of issue of Certificate of Provisional Approval and seeking authority for issue of Qualification Certificate was cumbersome and lengthy and I quote from my report to the Council and my suggestions for reducing waiting periods to a minimum.

Following the publication of circular 66/69 in August, 1969, I was appointed to carry out the inspection of premises in connection with applications for Qualification Certificates and to issue the appropriate certificate. The procedure laid down for application and issue of Qualification Certificates in connection with improvement works which are proposed is as follows :—

Application may be made in conjunction with an application for grant and the combined application form may be used. This procedure is being carried out by my Department.

If the Council are satisfied that the dwelling will meet the qualifying conditions when the works have been carried out, they are to approve the application provisionally and issue to the applicant a Certificate of Provisional Approval, sending a copy to the tenant.

The Certificate of Provisional Approval enables the landlord to obtain from the Rent Officer a Certificate of Fair Rent saying what the fair rent would be under a regulated tenancy following the completion of the works included in the application for the Qualification Certificate.

When the works have been completed and the landlord produces a Certificate of Fair Rent obtained under Schedule 2, the local authority will need to inspect the dwelling. If they are satisfied that the qualifying conditions have been met, they are to issue a Qualification Certificate and send a copy to the tenant.

Looking at the procedure which has taken place in respect of certificates for which application have already been made, it appears to me that this is clumsy and unnecessarily lengthy in that reports are being made on several occasions to the Council in order to issue a final Certificate of Qualification and I would suggest that the following procedure will be of advantage to all concerned particularly the landlord and tenant.

1. On the submission of the combined application for qualification certificate and improvement grant, if I consider that the proposals set out in the application for standard grant satisfy the conditions warranting the issue of a provisional Qualification Certificate that this be issued automatically and reported on when the form of application for grant is submitted to the Council.
2. If a Certificate of Fair Rent is produced on completion of the works set out in the approved improvement grant, then when the form of completion and certificate for payment is signed by me, I am, in effect, saying that the conditions warranting the issue of the Qualification Certificate have been satisfied and I would think it reasonable that at the same time, the formal Qualification Certificate be issued.

If this procedure is followed, waiting periods of over a month can be saved and lengthy reports to the Committees would be obviated.

These proposals were accepted by the Council as being a reasonable means of obviating many reports to Committees and Council and the operation of the suggestions has borne out the saving in time.

From my experience of the applications for Qualification Certificates in respect of houses already provided with the standard amenities I find that there is a lack of appreciation on the part of applicants for Qualification Certificates of the standards to which the house for which application is made ought to attain and many applications have been received where all the standard amenities are not provided and furthermore, the house is not in a satisfactory state of repair. In my approach to the condition of disrepair of premises, I have attempted to be reasonable and to attempt to look at the problem both from the tenant's point of view and the landlord's point of view, but tenants have appeared to discover many repairs requiring attention which have gone unnoticed for many years immediately an application is made for a Qualification Certificate.

Thirteen applications for Qualification Certificates were received. Objections were received in respect of four, of these, two were refused, and the others are awaiting minor repairs before they can be issued.

Four applications were received for Qualification Certificates combined with Standard Grants and a Certificate of Provisional Approval was issued in each case.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

We have received complaints concerning :—

Mouldy growth in a pork pie.

Foreign matter in a bottle of sterilised milk.

Mouldy apple tarts.

No formal action was taken in respect of these complaints but manufacturers were informed.

POULTRY INSPECTION

Regular visits continue to be made to slaughtering establishments and 11,788 poultry have been seen during the year. There are few condemnations.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

The number of premises subject to the above mentioned regulations is :—

- (i) 309.
- (ii) The number of premises complying with Regulation 16 — 297.
- (iii) The number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies — 294.
- (iv) The number of premises complying with Regulation 19 — 294.

The majority of premises in the District affected by the Regulations are small retail shops of the general store type, catering establishments, licensed premises and butcher's shops.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The department has continued to operate the Act and 83 visits have been made to premises coming within the provisions of the Act.

Two accidents were reported during the year. These were both in respect of males employed in retail shops. One slipped causing an injury to his hand and the other was struck by a falling object causing bruising to scalp.

TABLE 'A' Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises				Number of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices ...	...	...	...	1	23	6
Retail shops ...	...	...	...	6	112	55
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...				—	5	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ...	...	...	...	3	31	10
Fuel storage depots ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total ...	...	...	...	10	171	73

TABLE 'B'

Number of visits of all kinds made by Inspectors to Registered premises 83

TABLE 'C'

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace.

Class of Workplace						Number of persons employed
Offices ...	...	...	...	...	...	355
Retail shops ...	...	...	...	...	...	398
Wholesale Departments, warehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens						188
Fuel storage depots ...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	963
Total Males — 331						
Total Females — 632						

HOUSING

The department has again this year supplied each member of the Council with a comprehensive report on all applicants for Council accommodation.

LETTINGS DURING THE YEAR

New 2 bedroom bungalows	....	....	....	....	....	8
New bungalows (Welfare)	....	....	....	....	....	12
New houses	....	....	....	....	....	10
Houses re-let	....	....	....	....	....	37
Bungalows re-let (Welfare)	....	....	....	....	....	9
House Exchanges	....	....	....	....	....	9
Lodgers	....	....	....	....	....	33
Caravan Lettings	....	....	....	....	....	7
Garages	....	....	....	....	....	54

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928-1936

In January this year, the Council felt as a result of a report from me that the petroleum installations in the District ought to be brought up to a satisfactory standard more in keeping with modern standards and the advice of the Chief Fire Officer of the Staffordshire County Fire Brigade was sought. The Chief Fire Officer agreed to let the Council have reports on all installations in the District and these totalled between 75 and 80. All the reports had been received by October and the Council had to decide on the standards of requirement in respect of the storing of petrol. The Council finally decided that the conditions of licence should be :—

1. The Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions (Part 1) 1968, which Principles and Conditions shall apply to all new premises and shall apply to all existing premises at the discretion of the Council.
2. Every authorised officer of the Council shall at all reasonable times be allowed free access to the licensed premises for the purpose of ascertaining that the conditions attached to the licence are duly observed and the licensee or his representative shall give any assistance for that purpose which the Officer may require.
3. A certificate signed by an approved electrician shall be submitted with each application for Licence, which certificate shall certify that the electrical installation at the premises satisfies the Conditions of Licence (Model Code).

4. While petroleum spirit is being delivered into a storage tank, the tank wagon shall not stand on the public highway, nor shall the delivery hose pass over or across the public highway or footpath.

The Council may make additions to or may supplement or vary any conditions of licence during the currency of the licence in circumstances where the Council consider it necessary.

After giving careful consideration to the reports of the Chief Fire Officer the Council resolved that licences in respect of four premises should not be issued and the holders of the licences were informed that renewal would not be given.

The receipt of the Fire Officer's report on premises was not the end of the work involved as all the defects listed had to be investigated by a member of my staff and he worked for a considerable period of the year on bringing up to the required standard, the installations in the area. To continue the story still further, of the four refusals one decided to appeal to the Minister and during 1971 an enquiry was held at the Council Offices by one of the Ministry Inspectors and a visit paid to the premises but at the time of writing this report the result of the Minister's enquiry is not yet known.

The work of bringing up to the required standard is not yet complete and it will take some time before this is finally completed as tanks will have to be tested and this is going to prove a lengthy project.

THEATRES ACT, 1843

CINEMATOGRAPH ACT 1909 — 1952

All licensed premises have been visited both for routine annual licence renewal purposes and during the course of use of the premises.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

There are 15 slaughterhouses in the district all visited regularly.

Each slaughterhouse has been inspected by a Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and only minor defects of lack of maintenance found.

There are 15 slaughterhouses in the district and these vary in output from a small wholesale supply, to the butcher killing only for his own shop. To exercise 100% inspection of all animals killed requires the services of one inspector for at least 4 full days in the week and is really very wasteful manpower. One would think that there ought to be some rationalisation of the meat trade but perhaps this will be brought about by the economics of the trade rather than legislation.

RODENT CONTROL

As I have already reported in my introductory remarks, Mr. H. E. Mosley retired at the end of August.

His retirement gave me cause to think on the future approach of the Council to Rodent Control and on investigation I found that the work on private houses and the Council properties of Sewage Works, Refuse Tips and Depot could be carried out by a private contractor with a possible financial saving to the Council. The reason for the financial saving being brought about by the past policy of the Council to carry out control at business premises for very reasonable charges. Experience over the next two years will determine the success or failure of the experiment.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following table shows the number of inspections carried out to the various types of properties within the District.

	Authority Local	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricul- tural
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	23	11962	1484	852
Number of properties inspected as a result of notification	1	125	21	10
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—				
Common Rat — Major	...	...	—	—
Common Rat — Minor	...	...	92	12
House Mouse — Major	...	...	—	—
House Mouse — Minor	...	...	33	9
Number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	...	111	389	24
Number of such properties found to be infested by :—				
Common Rat — Major	...	...	—	—
Common Rat — Minor	...	...	283	24
House Mouse — Major	...	...	—	—
House Mouse — Minor	...	...	—	3
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	...	69	408	39
				14

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

			Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	...	...	1,564	1,043	808	12,885	3,248
Number inspected	...	...	1,564	1,043	808	12,885	3,248
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS							
Whole carcases condemned	...	—	—	—	5	5	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	240	473	19	1,331	366	
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis	...	15.34	45.35	2.97	10.36	11.29	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY							
Whole Carcases condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	45
Percentage infected with Tuberculosis	...	—	—	—	—	—	1.38
CYSTERICERCOSIS							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	6	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	6	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised cystericercosis and carcases totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number on Register .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95
Number using Mechanical Power .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93
Number of Inspections .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.
 (Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Particulars	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Number of occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	2	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	91	10	1	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	93	12	1	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found to exist.

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Ineffective drainage of floors Sanitary Conveniences (S7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	6	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	6	—	1	—

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Number of houses made fit							Total
After informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
By owner after Statutory Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
<hr/>							
Visits							
Complaints — Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Complaints — Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
First visits, conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Revisits, conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Number of conversions completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
First visits, drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Revisits, drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	313
Levelling	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water samples — public	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water samples — private	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Deposit gauges	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Bacteriological specimens	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Food Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Improvement Grants (1st. visits and enq's.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	666
Improvement Grants (revisits)	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Completed, Standard	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Completed, Discretionary	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Unfit Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Revisits and other foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	445
Dairy	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other visits and interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

Special Inspections

Contraventions

		Visits	Abated	Found
Housing Applicants	...	...	—	—
Tenancy Exchange	...	24	—	—
Tenancy Transfers	...	3	—	—
Lodgers	...	2	—	—
Theatres and Cinemas	...	5	1	2
Hairdressers	...	1	—	—
Tips	...	—	—	—
Pet Shops	...	—	—	—
Boarding Kennels	...	—	—	—
Petroleum	...	66	1	1
Caravan Site	...	2	—	—
Clean Air — General	...	4	2	2
Clean Air — Factory	...	—	—	—
Gut Scraper	...	5	3	5
Knacker	...	—	—	—
Rodent Control	...	2	—	—

				Contraventions		
Food Premises				Visits	Abated	Found
Butchers	...	...	...	8	5	5
Bakeries	...	...	...	4	1	5
Canteens	...	...	...	1	—	—
Dairies	...	...	...	4	—	—
Confectioners	...	...	...	7	2	5
Fishmongers	...	...	...	2	1	—
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	5	1	2
Grocers	...	...	...	50	58	42
Greengrocers	...	...	...	1	—	—
Ice Cream	...	...	...	2	—	—
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	63	78	25
Market	...	...	...	1	1	2
Mobile Shops	...	...	...	—	1	—
School Canteens	...	...	...	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	31	13	1
Warehouse	...	...	...	2	—	1
Restaurants	...	...	...	13	29	25
Housing Act						Total
Unfit Houses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	132
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	25
Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses — Multiple Occupation	...	...	...	...	...	—
Qualification Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	11
Food Inspection						Total
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	222
Meat at Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1,895
Meat at Shops	...	...	...	...	...	1
Canned Goods	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	—
Frozen Food	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other Food	...	...	...	...	...	—
Imported Food	...	...	...	...	...	20
				Served	Completed	
				Formal	Informal	Formal
				Formal	Informal	Informal
Public Health Act	...	...	18	42	14	54
Housing Act	...	...	—	—	—	—
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	—	14	3	21
Shops Act	...	...	—	4	—	3
O.S.R. Act	...	...	—	9	1	17
Factory Act	...	...	—	1	—	—
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	—	—	—	—
Cinemas and Theatres	...	...	—	3	—	—
Rent Act	...	...	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouse Regulations	...	—	—	6	—	6
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	—	—	—	—	—

10. SURVEYOR'S REPORT

HOUSING

The number of houses completed within the Rural District during the year are as follows :—

Built by Local Authority .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Built by Private Developers .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	247
						281

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING

Werrington

The Council acquired a site of approximately 7 acres at Cotehill Farm and a start was made last year on a scheme for 6 houses, 18 one-bedroom bungalows and 15 garages at a tender price of £57,192. This scheme and all the dwellings and the garages are now completed.

Waterhouses

During 1969 a start was made on a contract to build 12 dwellings and 15 garages. This scheme has now been completed. This particular site required the planning permission of the Peak Park Planning Board and consequently the layout design of buildings and choice of materials have been agreed following close co-operation with the Board. The Council decided to allocate part of the Waterhouses site for development by private owners and 10 plots of land were put up for sale. Of these, four plots have been sold and one bungalow is in course of construction.

Cheddleton

On the Council's existing site at Grange Road, a further 4 one bedroom bungalows have been erected and completed.

Wetley Rocks

The Council built a range of 6 lock-up garages for the use of the tenants of Mill Lane, Council housing site. The site is at Church Farm and planning permission was eventually granted following an appeal to the Ministry. The garages and boundary walls were built in reconstructed stone to harmonise with the existing farm buildings. The total cost of the completed contract including building and site works was £2,736.

MODERNISATION OF EXISTING COUNCIL HOUSES

At the beginning of 1970 the Council in accordance with Government policy gave careful consideration to a programme for the modernisation of the Council's 195 pre-war houses. The intention being to bring the pre-war houses up to the 12 point standard recommended by the M.H.L.G., the main points; improvements to sanitary conditions, adequate lighting and power points, adequate heating to minimum Parker Morris standards, and suitable provision for storage, preparing and cooking food.

The preparation of this scheme of necessity creates problems as to the carrying out work in tenanted property. The Council's policy is to transfer tenants temporarily into alternative accommodation. At the end of the year, one dwelling was completed to the standards set down and opened as a show house to the public.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSING

During the year a total of 247 dwellings were erected and completed by private builders and at the end of the year there are in addition, 228 dwellings under construction.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

During the year the Council considered 996 plans and applications as submitted and requiring decisions under the Building Regulations and the Town and Country Planning Acts. The number approved was 885 and 111 were refused.

Included in the total number of plans considered were 411 new planning applications and these required the joint consultation and decision of the Staffordshire County Council and the Cheadle Rural District Council.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES

Whiston Sewerage Scheme

The main village sewerage scheme is now complete and an extension of the scheme to serve nine properties at Archbury has also been constructed. The total cost of this work is £42,600.

Dilhorne Sewerage Scheme

A tender in the sum of £52,700 has been accepted and work on this scheme has commenced. Good progress is being made and the majority of the sewers laid.

The scheme will provide for the complete sewerage of Dilhorne and will drain into the existing sewers in Cheadle and from there to the Purification Works at Deadman's Green.

Cheddleton Sewage Purification Works

Following approval from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the extension and modernisation of the Cheddleton sewage purification works and the preparation of final design details and Bills of Quantities, tenders will be invited for this work early in the New Year.

Hollington Sewerage Scheme

Detail design work is continuing for the above scheme and negotiations are taking place with the Dairy at Fole with a view to incorporating the drainage from these premises into the scheme.

It is anticipated that the scheme, which is estimated to cost approx. £115,000 will be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1971.

Minor Sewerage Schemes

CROFT COTTAGES, TEAN

A tender has been accepted for this sewerage scheme to serve nine properties in the sum of £3,045. Work commenced in August and was completed in September.

CARAVAN SITE, CHEADLE

The site at Woodhead comprises 21 caravan sites and continues to be fully utilized.

Street lighting was provided during this year.

HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates and maintains a fleet of 9 Refuse collection vehicles, six of which are of the compression type and every effort is made to maintain a weekly collection service to all but the outlying properties. The results of the introduction of an interim bonus scheme in the latter part of the year are awaited with interest; first indications are that householders are receiving a more regular service.

Disposal is effected by controlled tipping in various parts of the District and the present sites are reaching the end of their life. Whilst it is anticipated that new sites will become available, it may well be that in the long term alternative methods of disposal will have to be pursued, and already preliminary consultations have been made with adjoining authorities.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION AND EMPTYING OF CESSPOOLS AND SEPTIC TANKS

The Council operates and maintains two vehicles for this purpose.

Every effort is made in conjunction with the Public Health Department to ensure that as and when new sewerage schemes are commissioned properties will be connected thereto and so gradually reduce the size of this task.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Estate, Brookhouses

The original 11 acres of land purchased by the Council at Brookhouses for industrial purposes has now been sold to industrialists, and the District Valuer has opened negotiations for the purchase of further land adjoining this site for industrial development.

The seven factories are now established for the following purposes :

1. Commercial vehicle body building — formerly precast concrete;
2. Vehicle exhaust systems;
3. Light precision engineering;
4. Sandstemming for use in mine and quarry blasting;
5. Ceramics for heating elements;
6. Refractory and furnace materials;
7. Fibre glass moulded boats.

BUS SHELTERS

The total number of bus shelters erected by the Council is 84 and these are maintained and regularly cleaned by the Council.

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